



Photo illustration by Tony Verceluz
This photo illustration depicts Becky Watson, a Navy spouse and Coast Guard reservist, trying to juggle the demands of including a workout into her busy role as a parent. The MWR Kids Club, located at Bloch Arena, gives military parents an option for childcare while they are working out at the gym or participating in one of the exercise programs at Bloch Arena's aerobic annex.



Heather Elrod, a Marine spouse, participates in the "Bands, Balls and Bells" class at the Bloch Arena aerobic annex. Bloch Arena hosts an array of classes in the annex. Elrod's child is at the Kids Club, which is located just across the sidewalk from the annex.

MWR Kids Club helps Sailors, families juggle kids, exercise

Story and photos by
JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

A common reason parents say they cannot get to the gym is that a babysitter is too hard for them to find. Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) has launched a pilot program designed to eliminate that particular difficulty.

The Kids Club at Bloch Arena is a place where Sailors, their families and eligible MWR patrons can take their kids while they go and work out at the gym or take in a fitness class in the annex.

"I think it's very convenient," said Amy Clark, whose husband is a supply officer aboard USS Chosin (CG 65). "I've been bringing my kids here since it opened."

The care center opened its doors Jan. 19 after two years of planning and preparation. Care providers from the Bougainville Child Development

Center (CDC) work at the Kids Club. The center is located behind the Travel Connections office, just to the left of the main entrance to Bloch Arena.

"I like it," said Clark. "It's nice to be able to work out and not have to worry about the kids."

"We try to get that hurdle out of the way," said Judy Kosaka, regional fitness coordinator for MWR. "The morning is usually booked, but the afternoon is not as utilized. It would be a great time for spouses who have been at home to come in and give dad a break. Or, make workouts a family time and come in to work out together."

Willette Santiago, a worker at the Kids Club, said the limit is 10 children per session. Parents who bring their kids in are served on a first-come, first-served basis. If the center is filled, workers ask that parents take their children to the Kids Cove facility. That facility is just off base, across the street from Pearl Harbor Kai elementary School on

Center Drive.

"There's always a place for them to go," said Santiago. "And the Kids Cove charges the same prices we do."

Currently, the center operates Monday through Friday from 8:15 to 10:15 a.m. and 4:15 to 7:15 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:45 to 11:45 a.m. Care at the Kids Club costs \$3 per hour, and can be split into increments of 15 minutes. Each 15-minute segment costs 75 cents. The fees are paid when parents come to pick up their child or children.

"The cost is too high, personally," said Clark, "but it's worth it."

Kosaka said the fees are established by Department of Defense regulation. In addition, she said the current method of available childcare is the most fair for parents who want to use the facility.

"We can't do reservations or monthly fees or similar deals," she said. "The room is so small, it would exclude so many people."

The Kids Club is a pilot program. Kosaka said her headquarters command told her the program had been tried before and had never been successful.

"We went to the experts," she said. "Without the help of the CDC, we couldn't have made this happen. They have the training and the expertise. They know the regs and I think this will be the model for future facilities. This is the first of its kind in the Navy."

Kosaka said she would like to see the weekday schedule expanded and encourages parents who have not yet brought their kids to the center to come in for a workout.

Kids Club hours of operation

- Monday through Friday from 8:15 to 10:15 a.m.
- Monday through Friday from 4:15 to 7:15 p.m.
- Saturdays from 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Care at the Kids Club costs \$3 per hour, and can be split into increments of 15 minutes.



A child says goodbye to his mother. She is going to work out at Bloch Arena. The child is staying at the MWR Kids Club. The club, which is next to Bloch Arena, allows military parents the chance to work out and have their kids in childcare. The Bougainville Child Development center provides licensed childcare workers to care for the children while parents exercise.

Commentary

Window on Pearl Harbor



Karen S. Spangler, Assistant Editor

karen.spangler@navy.mil

Rooting for Hawai'i's 'Idols' ...

Okay, I'll confess – even though television viewers across the nation, as well as here in the islands, have been glued to their television sets to watch the hit show “American Idol,” I've never set aside time on Tuesday nights to watch the show – that is, until this season. When two contestants from Hawai'i made the top 12 finalists, I found myself reserving my time to tune in the popular 'Idol' show.

Now there are only two Hawai'i contestants left – Camile Velasco from Haiku, Maui and Jasmine Trias from my own town of Mililani. Not only do I watch intently as they perform and cheer them on from my living room, but I even call in to vote.

Velasco is the daughter of Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW) William Velasco, assigned to the amphibious command and control ship USS Blue Ridge (LLC 19), and has also garnered Navy interest.

When Velasco performed March 16, singing “Son of a Preacher Man,” it was very obvious that she was extremely nervous. In fact, Simon Cowell remarked that she wasn't just nervous, she was petrified. And who wouldn't be? For the 18-year-old Camile, who has found herself in the limelight in front of a live audience and 30 million television viewers, as well as the other Idol contestants, the pressure has got to be tremendous.

My heart went out to her – she has a great voice and singing style, but even that couldn't quite overcome her nervousness. And it showed.

When it came time for the voting results to be announced the next evening, I sat on the edge of my chair. It was a grueling, painful process as the show's host went to each of the contestants – one by one – repeating the judges' comments from the evening before and then making the final pronouncement of the results from call-in voters. I was anxious and could hardly breathe as I hoped that Hawai'i's contestants had collected enough votes to stay in the running. They did – and I let out a sigh.

But it was even more painful to watch the three lowest vote-getters who were brought center stage as the master of ceremonies kept them – along with the audience and television viewers – in suspense. I know it's all part of the hype, but I couldn't even imagine how difficult it must be to stand on that stage and wait for the final verdict.

Finally, it came. Leah LaBelle was eliminated – as she tearfully watched the recap of her performances, I was sorry to see her go. She had done her best, but it hadn't been quite good enough to collect enough votes to keep her in the running. Well, I guess they don't call it reality television for nothing.

This past Tuesday night was country night – and the Hawaii gals gave it their best shot. Trias sang the Faith Hill song “Breathe.” I didn't think it was as good as her performance last week, but still a good performance.

Camile performed “Desperado.” I thought it was better than her presentation the previous week and she managed to overcome some of her nervousness and gave a stronger performance. She has an awesome voice and a lot of talent. But, on the downside, her nervousness was still apparent.

You have to give these youngsters a lot of credit. At the tender ages of 18 (Velasco) and 17 (Trias), they have accomplished a lot. They are talented and, just by virtue of even making the cut for the “American Idol” competition and being in the top 12, they are certainly already winners.

What a wonderful opportunity this is for them. But what a tremendous amount of pressure and anxiety it has to be. They are competing with kids with whom they have formed close friendships – even though each of them wants to win, it has to be a sad experience to say good-bye to fellow contestants who didn't make it.

But I can't even imagine what it must be like to stand on that stage every week – performing and trying to do their best in front of millions of people. And then ... that moment when they must stand in front of the three judges – Randy, Paula and Simon – and hear the verdict. And the stress of waiting to hear the results of viewer voting – that final opportunity to either move on in the competition or find out that they didn't make the cut – must be tremendous.

I want our Hawai'i contestants to move ahead – and even if it takes a few minutes to keep re-dialing to vote because the phone lines are tied up, I'll keep at it until I get through and my vote is counted.

Wishing the best to Camile Velasco and her awesome talent, part of our Navy ohana, as she belts out those songs for the “Idol” viewers. We're pulling for you – try not to be so nervous and keep in mind that you have many fans, not just in the islands, but Navy-wide and nationwide. Just have fun with it and do your best – and the rest will come.

And to Jasmine Trias, the other incredibly talented gal from Hawai'i, hoping that your talent takes you all the way to the top as well.

Wouldn't it be great if our two Hawai'i gals were singing it out for the top two “Idol” spots? It could happen – but they need all of our votes.

In any case, I enjoy watching all of the contestants as they give their best performances. They are all already incredible talents and winners.

Have a fine Navy day here in paradise.

Chapel to hold Passover Seder service

Pearl Harbor Aloha Jewish Chapel

The Pearl Harbor Aloha Jewish Chapel will conduct a Passover Seder beginning at 6 p.m. at the Hale Koa Hotel.

This event is rich in biblical history. The eight days of Passover commemorates the exodus from Egypt for the Jewish people. The Bible commands that the Passover story be retold every year to remind future generations of what God did for them in liberating them from slavery to the Egyptians.

During the Seder meal, the events of the Exodus story are remembered. Participants recall how the Lord broke Pharaoh's resistance of freeing the Jewish people by creating various plagues to fall upon Egypt. These culminated with the terrible tenth plague that resulted in the death of every first-born son in Egypt.

With that, Pharaoh agreed to free the Jewish people. The Exodus story continues by telling how the Jewish people quickly departed. They needed to leave so quickly that they could not wait for their bread to rise,

thus creating flat or unleavened bread.

Unfortunately, Pharaoh changed his decision liberating the Jewish people and so had them pursued with his army of chariots. As the army came nearer and all hope seemed lost, God intervened, parted the Sea of Reeds, and allowed the Jewish people to escape, thereby saving them from the Egyptians.

The Seder meal itself is rich in symbolism. In order to remember the horrors of slavery and the miracle of liberation, certain foods are eaten in conjunction with the telling of the Passover story. Bitter herbs are eaten to remember slavery, salt water to symbolize tears, a mixture of chopped wine apples and nuts to remember the mortar that was used to bind the bricks together, and the matza in order to remember the flat or unleavened bread. The Pascal lamb is no longer required, so a meal of roast turkey or a vegetarian plate is offered instead.

This event is open to all active duty personnel and dependents. If you are interested in this event, call Lt. Cmdr. Shelly Geringer at 473-5657 for further information.

Great Life Hawai'i photo of the week



Photo of CTAC Catherine Chisholm with her husband Paul, kids, Krystyna, Stephanie, and Andrew and parents Lou and Ruth Rom at the Paradise Cove Luau. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation is offering the “Great Life Hawai'i Photo Contest,” so dust off the photo albums and pick the photo that best represents what makes being stationed in Hawai'i so memorable. Submit unpublished photographs (no smaller than five by seven inches at 200 DPI) to “hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com.” All photographs submitted will become the property of the paper and MWR, which reserves the right to edit, copyright, and publish submissions. There is no entry fee, but there is a limit of one entry per family. Weekly photo winners will be showcased both in Hawai'i Navy News and on the MWR website “www.greatlife-hawaii.com.” Every quarter, a winner will be selected from the weekly winners to receive a special gift package from MWR. This contest is open to amateur photographers only, who must be at least 18 years of age.

Movie Call

Sharkey Theater, Pearl Harbor
(473-0726)

7:00 p.m. **FRIDAY**
Eurotrip (R)
SATURDAY
Catch That Kid (PG)
4:30 p.m. Miracle (PG)
6:30 p.m. 50 First Dates (PG 13)
SUNDAY
2:30 p.m. Barbershop 2: Back in Business (PG 13)
4:30 p.m. Against the Ropes (PG 13)
6:30 p.m. You Got Served (PG 13)
7:00 p.m. **THURSDAY**
The Perfect Score (PG 13)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)
*Special: \$2 adults; \$1 children (6 -11)

Memorial Theater, Hickam AFB
(449-2239)

7:00 p.m. **FRIDAY**
Miracle (PG)
SATURDAY
7:00 p.m. Miracle (PG)
SUNDAY
2:00 p.m. Catch That Kid (PG)
WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. Against the Ropes (PG 13)
THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. Against the Ropes (PG 13)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)
*Special: \$2 adults; \$1 children (6 -11)

Sgt. Smith Theater,
Schofield Barracks
(624-2585)

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
7:00 p.m. Barbershop 2: Back in Business (PG 13)
WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. You Got Served (PG 13)
THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. Win a Date With Tad Hamilton (PG 13)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)
*Special: \$2 adults; \$1 children (6 -11)

Editor's note: Every effort has been made to provide the most up-to-date information at the time of publication. However, scheduling of these events is subject to change. It is recommended that you call the contact numbers for the individual events to determine whether or not the activity will be held.

CAMP ADVENTURE

Camp Adventure will offer spring break day camps now until April 2 at Catlin Clubhouse and Iroquois Point Clubhouse. Camp includes weekly field trips, swimming, arts and crafts, songs, games and more. Registration for spring camp is open until all slots are filled. Fees are based on total household income. This program is open to eligible children ages 5-12. To check eligibility, register or get camp hours, call: Catlin Clubhouse, 421-1556; or Iroquois Point Clubhouse, 499-2572.

SURVIVOR SPRING BREAK TEEN CHALLENGE

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Navy Hawai'i will host Survivor Spring Break Teen Challenge now until April 3. The event will feature challenges each day of spring break to see who has what it takes to reign supreme. Prizes will be awarded each day as the power shifts. The challenge is open to youth ages 13-17. The ultimate survivor will be named on April 3. For information on registration and game sites call 471-8914.

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

March is Youth Art Month and youth can earn prizes by entering MWR's art contest. The contest will be divided into three age groups: 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12, with three winners per category. Visit the MWR website, www.greatlifehawaii.com, to print an official contest palette. Those who do

not have access to a computer or printer may visit their closest Navy ITT office for contest palette. Submit entries to any Navy MWR ITT office no later than March 31. Winning entries will be posted on the MWR Website. Submissions become the property of MWR and will not be returned. For more information call 474-5725.

LEISURE TRAVEL / TLA TRAVEL

Planning a trip? Travel Connections, the new travel office located in Bloch Arena can assist with worldwide airline ticketing, hotel accommodations, vacation packages and on-island TLA. For TLA, the travel office will arrange accommodations in one of a host of on-island hotels that offer lodging to fit many needs – all priced within TLA allowances. Those who book TLA through Travel Connections travel office will have the use of a free rental car during their TLA stay. Stop by throughout the month of March and enter the raffle for a DVD player. There is no cost to enter and you need not be present to win. The winning ticket will be drawn March 31. For more information call 422-0139.

CDH CHILDCARE PROVIDER

Become a Child Development Homes (CDH) childcare provider for military families. The deadline to apply for the next class is today. Participants must be 18 years or older, read and write English, and live in Navy family housing. Potential providers must attend an initial training class for a license to operate a childcare business. Those interested should apply at the CDH office in building 4 at the corner of Nimitz Highway and Camp Catlin Road between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Or visit the MWR Website at www.greatlifehawaii.com for an application. For more information call 471-8444.

CALLING ALL KINGPINS

Check out the bowling events at Naval Station Bowling Center. Regularly held activities include:

- Active duty patrons bowl free from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. every Monday.
- Kids bowl free (one per paying adult) starting from 6 to 10 p.m. every Monday evening.
- Pick-a-price Tuesdays are from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Bowlers can try their luck and pick the price for games from 50 cents to \$1.50. For more information call 473-2651.

VOLLEYBALL ON FREE-DAY FRIDAY

Free day Fridays are held from 6:30-10 p.m. every Friday at the sand volleyball courts at Wentworth Pro Shop. Teams are doubles and fours. All players are welcome to participate. For more information call 473-0610.

COACHES NEEDED - BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL

Boys & Girls Clubs of Navy Hawai'i is looking for volunteer coaches. There are several children who are interested in participating, but there are not enough volunteer coaches. No experience is necessary. If you have a few hours to spare call 474-3501.

GET YOUR HEAD UNDER THE HOOD

Go to any Navy Region Auto Skills Center (Pearl Harbor, West Loch or NCTAMS) for expert guidance on engine tune-ups, oil changes, etc., from the highly-trained staff. Auto repair hobbyists can rent bays or lifts and borrow from an extensive line of tools and equipment. Computer diagnostics are available for most vehicles. For more information call 471-9072.

GET AWAY AT THE BEACH

Rent a Barbers Point beach cottage

for a relaxing mini-vacation. The cottages feature one, two or three bedrooms, are fully furnished and have all the amenities needed for a comfortable stay away from home. Cottage reservations are accepted at the ITT office at The Mall at Pearl Harbor. Advance reservation categories apply, so plan accordingly. For more information call Information, Tickets and Tours at 422-2757.

PLACE TO PARTY

Having a party too big for your home? Rent a neighborhood community center. The centers offer facilities that provide all of the amenities needed to host a birthday party, wedding or perhaps a promotion reception. Navy family housing residents are eligible to reserve the community center in their housing areas up to six months in advance. For more information call Community Central at 471-8658.



March 27: Haleiwa for the day, \$2 and bring money. Depart from LIP at 10 a.m.

March 30: Valley of the Temples, \$4. Depart from LIP at 10 a.m.

Weekly events:

Sunday and Thursday: Movie and popcorn night, 6 p.m., free.

Monday: NFL football and pupus, 6:30 p.m., free.

Tuesday: 8 - Tournament, 7 p.m., free.
Wednesday: Ping Pong Tournament, 6 p.m., free.



50 First Dates: See movie review

Against the Ropes: Based on the real-life story of Jackie Kallen, who became a successful boxing manager. Kallen works her way up in the world of boxing by believing in the fighting skills of Luther Shaw, who she believes can be a champion.

Barbershop 2: Back in Business: On the south side of Chicago, Calvin is again struggling to keep his father's shop and traditions alive. Urban developers are looking to replace 'mom & pop' establishments with name-brand chains. The world changes, but some things never go out of style - from current events and politics to relationships and love, you can still say anything you want at the barbershop.

Catch That Kid: They are specialists in their fields: a rock climber, a computer genius, a mechanical whiz. Their task: to rob one of the world's most impenetrable banks to save an ailing father. Their plan is foolproof; their methods are ingenious. And they're not old enough to drive. Meet Maddy, Gus, and Austin: three kids on a mission.

Eurotrip: When the German pen pal that a high school student has been using to help him get an "A" in German (by translating his homework over the Internet) for years suggests that they meet, the boy's reaction is to freak out, thinking that "Mieke" is either a guy or some sort of stalker. But when he discovers that his pen pal is actually a cute "fraulein," he and his best friend fly to Europe in a wacky trip across the continent, headed for Berlin.

Miracle: Based on the true story of the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, Herb Brooks, a former Olympic gold medal winner assembles a U.S. team of underdogs. No one thinks they can make it, as they are up against the previously undefeated Soviet hockey team. Despite the odds, Brooks leads the U.S. team to victory.

The Perfect Score: Six high school students desperate to get into top-notch colleges develop a plan to break into the Princeton Testing Center to steal the answers for the S.A.T. in order to prevent the test from unfairly defining who they'll become. Each has his or her own set of circumstances that leads to the conclusion that the only way to truly decide one's own fate is to beat the system.

Win a Date with Tad Hamilton: When a hot young actor, Tad Hamilton, agrees to participate in a "win a date" contest to promote his new movie, his world is turned upside-down when he finds himself falling in love with the winner.

You Got Served: This hip-hop comedy explores the social subculture of street dancing, focusing on a pair of friends, David and Elgin, who want to open their own hip-hop dance and recording studio.

By JOSN Ryan C. McGinley

50 First Dates

For someone who has developed an extremely diverse cult following making quirky and sometimes downright brainless comedies, Adam Sandler is beginning to grow up. His latest movie, "50 First Dates", has an unbalanced proportion of comedy and sentimentality with the scale tipping toward the latter.

Sandler plays Henry Roth, a marine biologist at a Hawai'i's Sea Life Park, who has an uncontrollable urge to seduce tourists on the island. After all, tourists inevitably leave after a week so there is no commitment. Ironically, Henry meets Lucy (Drew Barrymore), an islander who survived a terrible car accident only to be left with a short term memory that lasts one day. No matter how hard he tries, Lucy predictably forgets about him the next day.

The movie is similar to "Groundhog Day" and "Memento" with the concept of Lucy's memory loss, but fails to reach either movie's caliber. What works though is a small amount of stupid humor and a large amount of charm and emotion. Sandler and Barrymore had chemistry in "The Wedding Singer" and pick up right where they left off here as well. Henry learns the value of commitment in a difficult lesson that poignantly interjects scenes of true warmth and feeling with charming comedy. Instead of using radical tactics to win over the girl and audience, he opts more for a endearing avenue of playfulness mixed with maturity.

Granted it's still an Adam Sandler movie, so there is a scene of excessive vomiting by a walrus and stupid humor from Rob Schneider as Henry's best friend, but what can you do?

After "Punch Drunk Love" and now "50 First Dates," it's apparent that not only is Sandler trying to appeal to a much broader audience by toning down his extreme antics, but he's also good at it.

OVERALL RATING:

Community Calendar

Here's a look at off-duty events happening on Oahu's military bases for service members and their families.

To get your activity or event featured in the Community Calendar, e-mail your requests to the editor at hnn@honolulu-advertiser.com or fax submissions to Hawai'i Navy News at 473-2876.

Deadline for submissions is Thursday for the following week's issue. Items will run for four consecutive weeks on a space available basis.

MISCELLANEOUS

MARDI GRAS FOLLIES

The 49th annual Mardi Gras Follies is now showing at The Banyans at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Performances will be held every weekend through March 27. The Las Vegas-style song and dance revue is a presentation of the Pearl Harbor Performing Arts Association. Directed by veteran showman Jack Cione, this year's revue will pay tribute to America's military forces with a salute to the red, white and blue performed by a cast of more than 50 performers. More than half of the cast is military affiliated, either active duty, veterans or retired. The Mardi Gras Follies is the main fundraiser for the Pearl Harbor Performing Arts Association (PHPAA), a nonprofit organization that contributes thousands of dollars each year to local military and civilian charities. Tickets are available at a cost of \$35, \$45 or \$50 per person and offer an evening of entertainment - including a buffet dinner, the Mardi Gras Follies show, tax, tip and free parking. For tickets, call 473-1703. If you would like more information about how to become a member of the Pearl Harbor Performing Arts Association call 487-2546. You can also visit the Mardi Gras Follies Website at www.mardigrasfollies.com for more information.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel will host the annual Easter Sunrise Service onboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial at 6 a.m. April 11. The service is open to all active duty and retired military members and their families, DoD civilian employees and sponsored guests. Parking will be available

near Fox 5 pier on Ford Island; the Missouri's trolley service will not be used. For safety purposes, guests should wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for climbing onboard the Missouri. No purses, handbags, backpacks, camera bags, diaper bags, or other items that offer concealment will be allowed on the Missouri. For more information and to volunteer contact the chaplain's office at 473-3971.

EARTH DAY

Navy Region Hawai'i is hosting an Earth Day Fair at the NEX on April 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The family friendly event includes a coloring contest open to children age 10 and under. Prizes will be awarded to each age group. Pick up contest forms at the NEX. For more information call 473-2888.

MARDI GRAS - ALOHA STYLE

The Navy Hale Keiki School will hold its 11th annual silent and live auction, "Mardi Gras ~ Aloha Style" from 5-9 p.m. April 17 at the Hickam Officer's Club. Ticket prices are \$15 per person and includes heavy pupus, costumes and live entertainment. This year's proceeds are targeted for classroom computer upgrades and safety upgrades for the school's playground structures. Navy Hale Keiki School, established in 1946, is a private, non-profit organization committed to providing an early childhood education for children in preschool through second grade. While open to both the military and civilian communities, throughout its 56 years the school has traditionally attracted 90 percent of its total enrollment from military families. To make a donation or purchase tickets for the auction, contact 227-0954 or sydneynann1313@aol.com. All donations are tax deductible.

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS SCHOLARSHIP

The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), Honolulu post, will award a \$1,500 scholarship with a one-year SAME 'young member' membership. Applications must be postmarked by May 10. Information on eligibility and submission requirements can be

obtained by calling Commander Bert Diehl, U.S. Coast Guard, at 541-2200.

SHIP/SUBMARINE OHANA

USS HOPPER OHANA

- The USS Hopper Ohana will hold its monthly meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. April 6 at the fellowship hall of the Pearl Harbor Base Chapel. A guest speaker will discuss financial planning for deployments. The group will also discuss the cookbook, Easter egg hunt and the Mother's Day breakfast. For more information email hopperohana70@yahoo.com or call Sabrina at 499-0555.

WINE TASTING WITH SNO'O

The Surface Naval Officers Ohana (SNO'O) will host a wine-tasting at 7 p.m. April 2 at the home of Capt. and Mrs. Phil Greene. The event will provide answers to a variety of questions about wines. To make reservations or for more information, call Suzanne by phone at 422-8863 or e-mail at snoohana@hotmail.com by March 28.

NEX

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Children can have breakfast with the Easter Bunny from 7:30-9 a.m. April 3 at the Navy Exchange Food Court. Tickets are \$5 per child and include McDonald's pancakes, orange juice, goody bags, balloon animals and a Polaroid picture with the Easter Bunny. Tickets are on sale at the NEX customer service desk. Seating is limited. Children age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Parents can bring their children for a keepsake photo session with the Easter Bunny at the Navy Exchange Ronda. Photo times are 4-8 p.m. on Fridays and noon-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through April 9.

U-HAUL SERVICE DISCONTINUED

The U-Haul Service at NEX Autoport and Touch 'N Go Mini Mart will be discontinued as of March 27.

SUPPORT NMCRS 2004

Help support the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society by purchasing a \$5 benefit ticket at the Navy Exchange. Patrons will receive 10 percent off purchases at the NEX and 15 percent off furniture (some restrictions apply) on March 22 and 23. All proceeds will be contributed to the NMCRS 2004 fund drive. Tickets are sold at most NEX locations.

COURTESY INSPECTION SERVICE AVAILABLE

The Navy Exchange Autoport provides a free safety inspection to families of deployed Sailors. This service is available one week prior, after and during deployment periods. The NEX Autoport is located on base, sub side. For more information, call 423-3226.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

RED CROSS NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING

The American Red Cross at Hickam AFB is currently accepting applications for a free nursing assistant training program. Applicants should be military dependents, over 18 years of age and have a high school diploma. For more information, contact the Red Cross office at 808-449-0166 e-mail at arc@hickam.af.mil.

ARMED SERVICES YMCA

ALIAMANU LOCATION:

The Aliamanu (AMR) branch of the Armed Services YMCA is located at 1875 Aliamanu Drive, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96818. The phone number is 833-1185, fax 834-3631, email is ASYMCAAMR@aol.com.

T.O.P.S.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), a nonprofit, non-commercial weight-loss support group, meets every Wednesday at the Armed Services YMCA, Aliamanu location. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:15 p.m. Membership fees are low and includes the T.O.P.S. magazine. There are also incentive programs offered. The first meeting is free. For more information, call Delcie at 623-1403.

Marine writer guides visitors through WWII O’ahu

JO1 Jim Williams
Features Editor

Thousands of tourists visit O’ahu’s military sites every year. But until recently, there was no definitive guide encompassing all of the island’s World War II military sites - how to get to them, while sharing their history and significance to the war.

“I offer a unique mixture of history book and guidebook,” said author Marine Col. Charles Jones about his book, “Hawai’i’s World War II Military Sites.”

The book, which is organized by the site’s location, provides extensively researched overviews of each of Oahu’s military attractions, including its background information, maps and photographs.

“Of course, I wrote about the big picture of what happened during the attack on Pearl Harbor,” said Jones. “But many people do think if they visit the Arizona Memorial, they have seen everything. So I went out and tried to find the rest of what happened that day to complete the picture.”

Jones added that he also tried to approach the war from a different historical perspective.

“I didn’t want to focus on the leaders like Admiral Nimitz or General McArthur,” recalls Jones. “Rather I

wanted to know about the Sailors in the Navy gun tubs, or Soldiers or Marines in the trenches. So I included many quotes from combat veterans.”

He added being in the military himself helped during the research.

“Being a Marine has opened a lot of doors,” said Jones. “And I find a lot of veterans will open up to me in ways that they might not open up to a non-veteran.”

Jones also said the 250-page, soft-bound book also includes some information that has never been readily available to the public, making it perfect for the “war” buffs out there.

“It’s really for the serious student of not only December 7, but of all the World War II activities on Oahu,” he said. “It talks about what happened and where you can find everything now. I believe it is the only book that does that, to my knowledge.”

He re-emphasized that he felt it was important to focus on the individuals’ stories.

“I wanted to discover and show how a Soldier feels when he loses a friend, or why a Marine who is wounded would pick up a rifle and uniform and go back to to fight some more,” he said.

The answer, Jones said, lies in one word.

“Loyalty,” he said, “was why they

“It just dawned on me, I’m living in Pearl Harbor and should really do something about it ...”

Col. Charles Jones
Marine author

would sacrifice so much. In battle, they weren’t just fighting for the emperor or president, the flag or country. They were fighting for their individual comrades in their small world. And there was no bigger disgrace than to let a comrade down.”

Being a Marine himself, Jones said he understands this feeling.

“There’s a lot of pride involved in it,” he said.

No longer on active duty, Jones is still a colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

Coming from a military family (his father was radar operator on B-29s in WWII, who flew over the surrender ceremony on the U.S.S Missouri(BB 63)), Jones served on active duty in the Marine Corps as a lawyer from 1981

until 1992, at which time he left the service to write, primarily about military history.

While in the regular component, he served at Camp Lejeune as a review officer; as the legal advisor to the Commander of 32nd and 22nd Marine Amphibious Units, where he served on ships and ashore in Beirut, Lebanon; as a defense counsel at Camp Lejeune; in Washington, D. C., at Headquarters, Marine Corps and at the Naval Legal Service Office Norfolk, where he now resides.

Since 1993, he has been active in the Marine Corps Reserve, serving on inactive duty as a drilling reservist and on extended periods of active duty in New Orleans, Camp Lejeune, Norfolk, Washington, D.C., as well as Hawai’i.

“It was while I was working here that one day it just dawned on me, I’m living in Pearl Harbor and should really do something about it,” he recalled. “And being an ordered person in a disordered world, I began looking for a guidebook to visit the sites.

“When I couldn’t find a single guide to tell me where to go,” he continued, “I began to research maps and books, and ask people questions. Eventually I also started taking pictures and compiling notes as I went places.”

Having already completed a biogra-

phy of his great-great grandfather (a Confederate lieutenant from North Carolina who survived the war) and having historical articles that had appeared in World War II Magazine, both the Navy Times and Marine Corps Times, as well as the Washington Times and Virginian Pilot, he knew there would be a lot of work involved in writing a book.

“It’s not easy to get published,” he warned other perspective military writers.

“But the traits you learn in the military, like how to deal with bureaucracy, organization skills, and especially tenacity, will help make things pay off,” said Jones.

And according to Jones, things have since his book was published and can now be found in bookstores and military exchanges all over O’ahu and the mainland, as well as on the Internet.

“It you want to get published, just don’t give up, keep at it and do your research,” Jones concluded.

Col. Charles Jones is scheduled to be at the Navy Exchange signing his book from noon to 2 p.m. on April 19.

For more information on Col. Charles Jones, or his book, “Hawai’i’s World War II Military Sites,” visit his Website “www.pearlharborguide.com.”

Oahu’s military members get together to compete at bowling

JO3 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Bowlers from the Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines and retirees participated in the annual Hawai’i All Military Bowling Tournament March 12 at bowling facilities on local military bases.

The four-day tournament hosted by the Navy consisted of different bowling events that included doubles, mixed doubles, singles and team events and all events.

The Navy team took first in the doubles and mixed doubles tournament. The Air Force won over all highest pin fall.

Electrical Technician 2nd Class (SW) Justin Stevens of USS Lake Erie (CG 70) bowled for “Team Navy” and took fourth in total pin fall. Stevens was also selected to bowl for the All Navy team in Las Vegas a few months ago.

“It was an honor to be selected for the All Navy team,” said Stevens. “That tournament just showed me I need a lot more practice,” Stevens admitted. “The Hawai’i All Military Tournament offers fierce

competition, only a little less stress,” he said.

Culinary Specialist 1st Class Derrick Pelekai of PACOM who also bowls for “Team Navy” brings two decades of experience to the team.

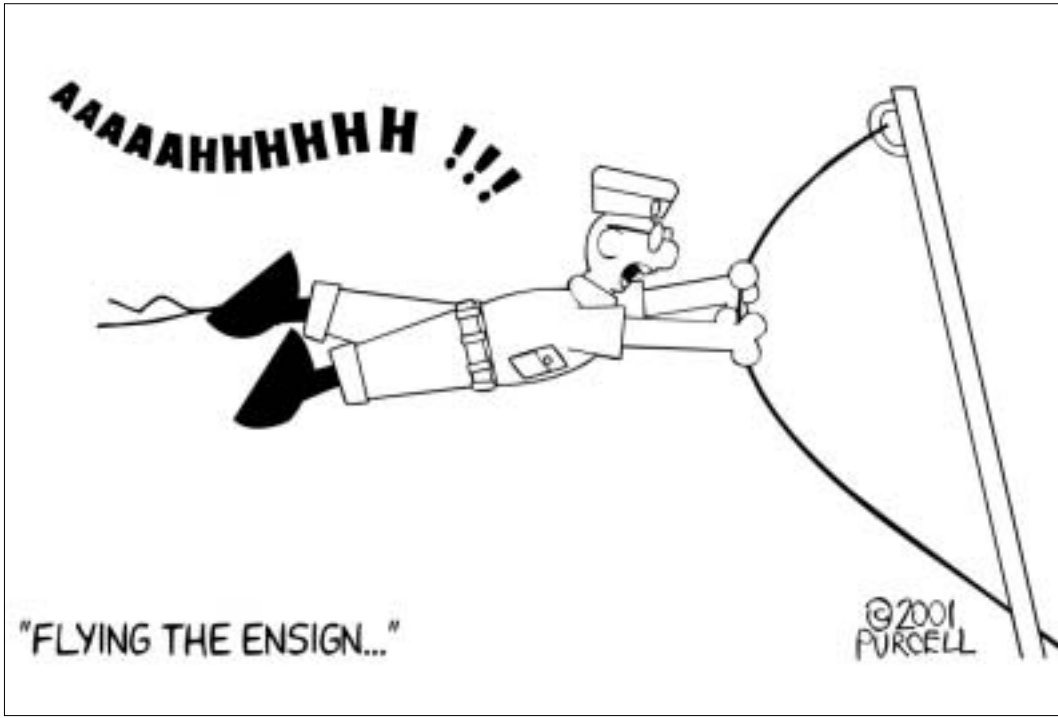
“I’ve been bowling for 20 years,” said Pelekai. “This is still a real challenging tournament,” Pelekai confessed.

Although winning is nice, Pelekai says the camaraderie is why he enjoys playing in military tournaments.

“There are men and women from other services that are fighting in far off countries, and opportunities to get with other services and let them know you appreciate their sacrifices is always rewarding,” said Pelekai. “This tournament has given us (the Navy team) the chance to unwind and thank other services for their efforts, but we still want to win.”

The results of the Hawai’i All Military Bowling Tournament is the Air Force with 44,458 points, Navy took second with 43,463 points, third place went to the retirees 42,285 points, the Army took fourth with 41,458 points and the Marines were in fifth place with 35,913 points.

Topside by ITC(SW) Mike Purcell



|

—

|

|

—

|